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HISTORY OF THE GERMAN ELEMENT IN VIRGINIA. By Herrmann Schuricht. Vol. II, 13th and 14th Annual Reports of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. [Baltimore], 1900.

That there was a large and important German element among the Colonial settlers of Virginia has been long known to all students of our history, though our historical publications give but little information concerning it, and some of that little, incorrectly. But this has not been, as some have inconsiderately stated, because of a wilful ignoring of the Germans by our historians and historical societies, but simply because the required information was extremely difficult to obtain. Settling as they did in a remote portion of the Colony, using a foreign language, forming at most but a small proportion of the population of the Colony, it should not excite surprise that there has been so little in our histories in regard to the German element. The Germans did constitute an important portion of our population, and their history is one which interests all who care for Virginia's past; but it seems to us that it is the duty of those who have the local knowledge and opportunity to collect material for such a history, to give it to the public. Historical data relating to the Germans of Virginia, will always find a welcome to the pages of this *Magazine*.

When the late Mr. Schuricht's first volume was announced, sincere pleasure was felt in the belief that a long needed contribution to Virginia history would be made. But on reading, such hopes were quickly blasted. With great enthusiasm for his subject, and much knowledge of many of its phases, the author displayed so little judgment, such great ignorance of elementary facts of the history of Virginia and the Virginia people, and made so many utterly unfounded claims, that the book is practically worthless. It is true that there is much of interest and value; but unless one is well acquainted with our history and our people, the book is sure to mislead. When the first volume appeared, it was examined for review; but as it appeared that such a review as the limits of this *Magazine* will admit would have to be simply a list of errata, the intention was abandoned. The appearance of the second volume, however, makes it necessary that a warning should be given. What the German race has done in and for Virginia needs no exaggeration, and it is a pity that the lamented author's energy and enthusiasm shall not have worked to better results.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD. By Mary Johnston author of "Prisoners of Hope." Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1900.

In her second work, Miss Johnston has given to the world the most stirring and interesting Virginia historical novel ever written, and one of the very best of all America. With a fascinating style and an engrossing plot, she has preserved (what the old school of Virginia historical novels did not do at all) a close adherence to the actual historic and social conditions of the time. There are chapters in her book which would form admirable school reading for classes in Virginia history.

But what the great majority of modern novel readers wish is a story, and here they will find one where the interest is so strongly held to the end that it is safe to say that no one has ever left the book unfinished. A few critical people may object that there is a somewhat redundant supply of sensational incidents, and that the buccaneer episode is out of place and rather disfigures the book; but notwithstanding these criticisms, they are bound to continue, and will lay "To Have and To Hold" down at the end with the feeling that the authoress is wiser than the critic, and with a strong desire for more from the same pen.

This book has been so generally read and noticed in the press that it is hardly necessary to say that the plot is laid between the periods of the arrival of the "maids" sent to be wives of the colonists in 1619 and the great massacre of 1622.

GENEALOGY OF THE KEMPER FAMILY IN THE UNITED STATES—Descendants of John Kemper of Virginia. With a Short Historical Sketch of his Family and of the German Reformed Colony at Germanna and Germantown, Va. Compiled and Edited by Willis Miller Kemper and Harry Linn Wright. Chicago, Geo. K. Hazlett & Co., Printers, 373 Dearborn St., 1899. Pp. 248, xix.

This, as the authors state, is a genealogy, and not a family history, or one of the most distinguished of the German families of Virginia. The genealogy is evidently prepared with great care, and seems to be full and accurate; but the portion of the book of most interest and value to persons outside of the large family connection is the sketch of the Germanna colony. Though this only treats of one section of the German emigration, it is everything that the work on the Germans noticed above is not, and is entitled to unqualified praise. The historical portion of the work is from the pen of Mr. W. M. Kemper, of Cincinnati, who has made admirable use of original sources of information. He shows that the settlers at Germanna were not the Swiss or Palatines of De Graffenreid's North Carolina colony, but were skilled iron workers from Nassau-Siegen, who were engaged to come over to work Governor Spotswood's iron mines and furnaces. At this place, in the northeastern corner of what is now Orange county, "was the first German settlement in Virginia; the first county town [seat] of Spotsylvania county; where St. George's parish was organized; where the first iron furnace in America was built, and the first pig iron made, as Spotswood claims; the place from which the famous expedition of 'the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe' started; where the first German Reformed Congregation in the U. S. was organized, its first pastor settled, and its first services held" (p. 18). About 1720, most of the original settlers at Germanna removed to Germantown, in what is now Fauquier county. It is to be hoped that Mr. Kemper will further contribute to the history of the German element in Virginia.